

19 January 1965

MEMORANDUM FOR: R. J. Smith

SUBJECT : State's Decision on the NOFORN Material

1. Brad Coolidge called me on 15 January to inform me that senior officials concerned in the Department had decided not to permit downgrading of the NOFORN material used in our Special Report entitled "Peiping: Diplomatic Hardship Post" as requested by us in order to respond to the White House staff's desire to release the item to the press. The Department would, however, concur in our using the substance of the NOFORN despatches involved as background for a sanitized, thoroughly generalized report which would mention no names, sources, or nationalities-- [REDACTED] Coolidge said that this decision was motivated by the wish to avoid complicating US relations [REDACTED] already not very satisfactory.

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2. I responded that we could without difficulty produce a generalized article that would satisfy State, but said that I doubted that the White House would see any merit in releasing a bland dish of pap to the press. He indicated that the Department was prepared to argue its case with any interested White House staff member.

3. [REDACTED] people are going ahead with the preparation of a sanitized version of the Special Report. If, on reviewing it, you decide to send it to the White House, a copy should also be sent to Coolidge for the Department's perusal.

4. We had no difficulty in dealing with the DDP on the handling of NOFORN material from CS reports used in the Weekly article.

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Special Assistant for Production
Current Intelligence